



🇩🇪 **Downtown Stuttgart.** I was 13 (+/-). After the police broke up a fight a man invited me to a Coke. Nice guy... Afterwards we went for a walk in the Schlossgarten (awkward) and sat down on a park bench (more awkward). 🧑 Then he offered me money if we went in the bushes and... Now what?! Talk about deer in the headlights! Secular (and naive) teenager. Bible. Prayer. Church. Park bench. 3 seconds to think (+/-). After what seemed like an eternity I simply...got up and left! *Choice vs chance... And divine intervention.*



🚫 **In the Dark.** I must have been 8 (+/-) when my best friend showed me his dad's photo book. It contained subtle nudity I sensed was inappropriate to look at. That feeling of inexplicable guilt and shame - implanted by God, I believe. No one had ever talked to me about such content. My friend would also lock the door when we played and turn off the lights. And vocabulary unknown to me. *Thank God for protecting me from untold harm.*

🥋 **Judo.** In my early teens my Judo partner engaged in physical contact that, well, exceeded the necessities of the sport itself (awkward). 🧑 I quit Judo. Just before my green belt. Also dark room dynamics. *Dark. Dangerous.*

🧑 **Huuh!!** A university colleague of mine used to show a video of a groom in a tux, with traditional organ music and wedding decorations. When the camera moved and showed another groom in a tux, in the past he could hear an audible gasp from the students. *Huuh!!* 😞 But a few years ago that stunned reaction ceased. Culture shift. Re-conditioning of a collective conscience. The Huuh! hushed by an incessant barrage of politics and media.

📖 **On a personal note:** *In John 4 and 8 Jesus deals with sexual sin privately - one on one. He protects and restores both individuals. But He also confronts both on the level of sin - a culturally offensive reality. Every human has the right to be listened to. Will you extend the same courtesy to me? Please - I genuinely solicit your careful consideration and contemplation. Thank you kindly! I - and the Bible and Ellen White - are writing to men and women, not to people with unconventional chromosome realities. I wrote this for you. With love ❤️. Really.*

OLD TESTAMENT Scripture > subjectivity · Truth > tradition · Revelation > feelings

Genesis 1:27 “male and female He created them.”

1. There are (only) two genders
2. Gender is a divine, not human choice
3. Marriage particulars are prescriptive, not descriptive

Jesus: “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ 5 and said, “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh”? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate” (Matthew 19:4-6).

🧑 **Anatomy & Physiology** excludes homosexuality as Eve was a complementary match (Gen 2:18). Triple “for him...him...to him” (לְבָדוֹ אֶעֱשֶׂה לוֹ עֶזְרָא כְּנֶגְדּוֹ): indicates divine intentionality behind a female Eve, only to be affirmed by Adam's triple זָאֵת zəʾt - this is the one! (Gen 2:23). Fundamentally, “The Lord God commanded [צַוָּה šāwāh] the man” (Gen 2:16): a Creator-Creation relationship assumes divine prerogatives.

Genesis 19 - Just Hospitality? “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally” (19:5 יָדַע (yadaʿ) “to know”: euphemism for sexual activity (NIV, HCSB), here between men, which Lot identifies as wickedness (v7; Jdg 19:22). Verse 9 is reminiscent of the political landscape: “So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break to down the door” → the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah! “But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD” (Gen 13:13).

🔥 “The flames that consumed the cities of the plain shed their warning light down even to our time. We are taught the fearful and solemn lesson that while God's mercy bears long with the transgressor, there is a limit beyond which men may not go on in sin. When that limit is reached then the offers of mercy are withdrawn, and the ministration of judgment begins” (PP 164). *Note: hypocrisy and arrogance are denounced as worse than any other sin*

⌚ “The Sodomitish practices which brought the judgment of God upon the old world and caused it to be destroyed by water, and which caused Sodom to be destroyed by fire, are fast increasing. **We are nearing the end.** God has borne long with the perversity of mankind, but their punishment is no less certain. Let those who profess to be the light of the world depart from all iniquity” (ST Oct. 15, 1885.6-7). → Jude 7!

🚫 **Leviticus 18:22 - “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.”**

Simple. Safe. Straightforward. *Decisive.* Clear. Logical. Transparent. Male prostitution is also forbidden (Deut 23:18). “In consequence of continual transgression, the moral law was repeated in awful grandeur from Sinai. Christ gave to Moses religious precepts which were to govern everyday life. These statutes were explicitly given to guard the ten commandments. They were not shadowy types to pass away with the death of Christ. They were to be binding upon men in every age as long as time should last. These commands were enforced by the power of the moral law, and they clearly and definitely explained that law” (ST April 15, 1875/RH May 6, 1875)).

🧑 **David & Jonathan:** a healthy male friendship, not (superimposed) homosexuality (1 Sam 18:1-5; 2 Sam 1:17-27, esp. v26).

NEW TESTAMENT

Coming Out

“Flee sexual immorality” (1Cor 6:18)

“**Jesus never addressed the topic**” - it might not have been rampant in His context, but in any case is covered by the term **fornication** (πορνεία *porneia* Mt 5:32; 19:9) as any form of sexual immorality - activity so abominable that prophecy uses it as an illustration for spiritual (and ultimate) depravity (Rev 14:8; 17:2, 4; 18:3, 9; 19:2).

- Gentile Mandate: Acts 15:20, 29; 21:25 - “abstain from **sexual immorality**”
- 1 Cor 6:13 “Now the body is not for **sexual immorality** but for the Lord”
- 2 Cor 12:21 “I shall mourn for many who have sinned before and have not repented of the uncleanness, **fornication**, and lewdness which they have practiced.”
- Gal 5:19 “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, **fornication**, uncleanness, lewdness”
- Eph 5:3 “But **fornication** and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you”
- Col 3:5 “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: **fornication**, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”
- 1 Thess 4:3 “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from **sexual immorality!**”

“If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well” (Acts 15:29)

Romans 1:26-27 “For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.” “I was referred to Romans 1:18-32, as a true description of the world previous to the second appearing of Christ” (CG 449).

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals (μωλικοί), nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 **And such were some of you.** **But you** were washed, **but you** were sanctified, **but you** were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.” *Your Past Tense ≠ Your Future*

Homosexual? μαλακός *malakos* - presumed by some to be a reference to temple prostitution (NIV, NRSV, NLT), but the list of vices is generic and in relation to the Ten Commandments. Homosexuality: UBS Lexicon, NT Word St. Dict., BDAG, NKJV, NET, NGÜ, NASB 1977, 1995, 2020, HCSB, NIV 1984, 2011 (last term), Zürcher, CJB, LSB (last term).

!! “Homosexuality is not ‘normal’. On the contrary it is a challenge to the norm...Nature exists whether academics like it or not. And in nature, procreation is the single relentless rule. That is the norm. Our sexual bodies were designed for reproduction...No one is born gay. The idea is ridiculous...homosexuality is an adaptation, not an inborn trait” (Camille Paglia, Vamps and Tramps, 1994; Transgender Professor, Univ. of the Arts, Philadelphia).

Should we remain silent?! John the Baptist didn't re: Herod Antipas' adultery (Mt 14:4). Jesus confronted the woman at the well at the precise moment of salvation (John 4:15-16). Paul criticized not the sin of outsiders but the misguided tolerance of the church (1 Cor 5:1-2). *“in truth and love” (2 John 3)*

Let God Be Thy conQueror

“All his biddings are enablings” (COL 333)

Help, not Hatred!

“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it” (1 Cor 10:13).

Born this way?! “When you are under the controlling influences of the Spirit of God, you will be a new man in Christ Jesus. Hereditary and cultivated tendencies will be overcome, and Jesus will be formed within, the hope of glory. Oh, that you would fall upon the Rock and be broken!” (Lt13-1888.3) *Solution: not self-harm but sanctification*

× **Battle Field** “He who has determined to enter the spiritual kingdom will find that all the powers and passions of unregenerate nature, backed by the forces of the kingdom of darkness, are arrayed against him. Each day he must renew his consecration, each day do battle with evil. Old habits, hereditary tendencies to wrong, will strive for the mastery, and against these he is to be ever on guard, **striving in Christ's strength for victory**” (AA 476).

✳ **Great Controversy** “The word of God often comes in collision with man's hereditary and cultivated traits of character and his habits of life. But the good-ground hearer, in receiving the word, accepts all its conditions and requirements. His habits, customs, and practices are brought into submission to God's word. In his view the commands of finite, erring man sink into insignificance beside the word of the infinite God. With the whole heart, with undivided purpose, he is seeking the life eternal, and at the cost of loss, persecution, or death itself, he will obey the truth” (COL 60.3).

♥ **Choice** “Let no one say, I cannot remedy my defects of character. If you come to this decision, you will certainly fail of obtaining everlasting life. The impossibility lies in your own will. If you will not, then you can not overcome. The real difficulty arises from the corruption of an unsanctified heart, and an unwillingness to submit to the control of God” (COL 331.1).

👶 **Birth Control** “Many have to battle against strong hereditary tendencies to evil. Unnatural cravings, sensual impulses, were their inheritance from birth. These must be carefully guarded against. Within and without, good and evil are striving for the mastery. Those who have never passed through such experiences cannot know the almost overmastering power of appetite or the fierceness of the conflict between habits of self-indulgence and the determination to be temperate in all things. Over and over again the battle must be fought” (MH 173.3).

“Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church” (DA 671.2).

Temptation → God's Strength → Victory of Jesus → Your Triumph!